(a) whether Asthma in kids, especially in Delhi, is on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the amount spend in each hospital for asthma disease during the current Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps taken to completely prevent asthma in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh by creating awareness among the parents?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Asthma is reported to be increasing in prevalence globally, though no data specifically for Delhi is available.

(b) and (c) State-wise details on prevalence of asthma in children and the amount spent in each Hospital for asthma diseases separately during the current Five Year Plan are not maintained.

(d) Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNC) Strategy is one of the main interventions under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) II/National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The strategy encompasses a range of interventions to prevent and manage the commonest major childhood illnesses which cause death *i.e.* neonatal illnesses, Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhoea, Measles, Malaria and Malnutrition.

Clinical trials of Ayurvedic medicines

2345. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in Ayurveda, treatment is available for some dreaded diseases like cancer, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also aware that inspite of repeated requests from some of the Ayurvedic doctors, their medicines are neither put for clinical trial nor available for prescription; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. Cancerous conditions and their treatment is described in Ayurvedic ancient classical texts, which describe disease conditions like Arbuda, Nichaya gulma, Granthi visarpa that can be compared with cancer. Plants like Turmeric, Semicarpus anacardium, Tinospora cordifolia etc. have shown anti cancer activity.

(c) and (d) On the request of Vd. Nand Lal Tiwari of Jaipur the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) has undertaken the study of anti cancerous property of herbal compounds 'CARCTOL' to ascertain the claim. Similarly, a claim made by Krishan Gopal Ayurved Bhavan, Dharmartha Trust, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan on their proprietary

drug 'Cancer Gaza Kesari' has been subjected to pre-clinical safety studies by CCRAS. In 1996 a pilot project was sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to study the effects of metal based formulations prepared by Vaidya Balendu Prakash of Dehradun in the treatment of Acute Pro-Myllotic Leukemia (APML). In addition, clinical trials of AYUSH QOL — 2C developed by CCRAS for improvement of quality of life those receiving chemotherapy/radio-therapy have been initiated at St. Johns medical college, Bangalore and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

New PG programmes in Rajiv Gandhi Government Ayurvedic College, Paprola

2346. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved new post graduate programmes for 'panchkarma' 'rog nidan', 'bal rog', 'swasth brit' and 'dravya gun' in Rajiv Gandhi Government Ayurvedic College, Paprola;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to Himachal Pradesh Government to introduce these programmes;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a acute shortage of teaching staff in Paprola college;

(e) whether the shortage of teaching staff would not make an adverse effect on studies of students who choose these newly introduced courses; and

(f) if so, the instructions Government has issued to State Government to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes. Central Government has approved new P.G. courses in five subjects namely Panchakarma', 'Rog Nidan', 'Bal Rog', 'Swasthya Vritta' and 'Dravya Gun' with 3 seats in each subject with effect from academic session 2009-10

(c) No funds have been released so far exclusively for introducing these courses. However, the Central Government has released a sum of Rs. 646.80 Lakh to the State Government/State Health Societies for development of Rajiv Gandhi Government Ayurvedic College, Paprola under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely 'Development of AYUSH Institutions' during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08.

(d) to (f) The college has 53 eligible teachers as against 47 teachers required as per the norms of Central Council of Indian Medicines for conducting existing Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicines and Surgery (BAMS) Course with intake capacity of 50 students and 6 post graduate courses with intake capacity of 24 students. Approval for 5 new PG courses has been given subject to the condition that the college will ensure required qualified teachers in each new Post graduate course as per the CCIM norms before admitting the students.